

City of Copperas Cove Information Item

November 21, 2013

Update of Single Stream Recycling Program

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SUBJECT: **Single Stream Recycling Program Update**

1. **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

The Single Stream Recycling program began in a pilot area of 619 homes on April 15, 2013. A second phase was added to the pilot area on July 25, 2013 of an additional 600 homes. Prior to implementation of the program in the pilot area, a single stream recycling education event was held at Martin Walker Elementary school on March 22, 2013. A town hall meeting was held on April 10, 2013. Approximately 40 citizens came to the town hall meeting to become educated on the procedures of single stream recycling. In addition to that, each resident in the pilot area was hand delivered a letter informing them of the implementation of the program and proper procedure. Collection in the area remained every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

FINDINGS/CURRENT ACTIVITY

The Single Stream Recycling program continues in both phases of the pilot area. In September, the fee charged for contamination was \$5 per occurrence for contamination. With the beginning of the new fiscal year, staff is now charging the \$16 monthly fee for contamination however, if a container has only one or two items contaminating the load, collection staff removes the contamination, takes the rest of the recyclables and the resident is given a warning instead of the fee. Participation continues to fluctuate. Some residents are no longer recycling due to being charged the fee for contamination.

The results for the collections in September 2013 and October 2013 are as follows:

| | <u>Area 8 Single Stream Program</u> | <u>Area 8 Blue Bins</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <u>September 12, 2013</u> | | |
| Homes participated: | 375 | 21 |
| Homes without | | |
| Contamination: | 326 | N/A |
| Participation rate: | 31% | 12% |
| Weight collected (in pounds): | 5,460 | 340 |
| Pounds recycled per home: | 15 | 16 |

| | Area 8 <u>Single Stream Program</u> | Area 8 <u>Blue Bins</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>September 26, 2013</u> | | |
| Homes participated: | 496 | 21 |
| Homes without Contamination: | 405 | N/A |
| Participation rate: | 41% | 12% |
| Weight collected (in pounds): | 6,300 | 250 |
| Pounds recycled per home: | 13 | 12 |

| | Area 8 <u>Single Stream Program</u> | Area 8 <u>Blue Bins</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>October 10, 2013</u> | | |
| Homes participated: | 443 | 16 |
| Homes without Contamination: | 418 | N/A |
| Participation rate: | 37% | 6% |
| Weight collected (in pounds): | 6,260 | 160 |
| Pounds recycled per home: | 14 | 10 |

| | Area 8 <u>Single Stream Program</u> | Area 8 <u>Blue Bins</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>October 24, 2013</u> | | |
| Homes participated: | 375 | 19 |
| Homes without Contamination: | 221 | N/A |
| Participation rate: | 39% | 8% |
| Weight collected (in pounds): | 4,580 | 180 |
| Pounds recycled per home: | 20 | 9 |

A decrease in contamination has been noted over the last month; however, there are still a considerable number of residents placing plastic bags, plastic wrap and glass into their container.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that plastic bags of any kind and plastic wrap, especially the type around cardboard bottled water cases, are not recyclable and shouldn't be placed in the recycle containers. If residents will complete this extra step, it will allow the route to run more efficiently.

Although the City staff has received some negative feedback by program participants who contaminate their recycling loads, staff also continues to receive positive feedback. One example of the positive feedback received recently came from a resident in the pilot area that stated "she just loves the single stream recycling program because it is so easy and she is so happy that Copperas Cove is going to this program."

Furthermore, Wilco Recycling continuously provides positive feedback to the City staff regarding the cleanliness of the City's loads. The collection staff in Solid

Waste continuously contribute extra effort to ensure contamination is kept to the lowest amount possible.

2. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The trip cost and fuel surcharge of a trailer to take the recyclables to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is \$397.72.

For September and October, the total weight collected in the single stream recycling pilot area was 22,600 pounds (11.30 tons) resulting in a diversion rate of \$420.93. The amount of revenue received in September and October totals \$711.42. The amount received is for revenue on recyclables collected in all of Area 8.